

Anglican Church Planting Initiatives

Circular – Winter 2009/2010

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A National Conference with Archbishop in 2010



Changing the Landscape – Fresh Expressions and the Long Term

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, will be the keynote speaker at a national event in Lincoln which will focus on the long-term development of fresh expressions of church.

The event - hosted by Fresh Expressions at the Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground - will take place on 5 March 2010. The Archbishop will be looking at growth to spiritual maturity, while the day will also help those planting and leading new congregations to find out more about such key issues as finance, accountability and sustainability.

Another key aim of the day is to examine strategic mission development in a region, including local shared ecumenical support and ownership, and how this is developed through FEASTs (Fresh Expressions Area Strategy Teams).

Bishop Graham Cray, Archbishops' Missioner and leader of the Fresh Expressions team, said that Lincoln was a particularly appropriate venue because of the successful work being done across the county in establishing pioneering forms of church.

"Some people have said fresh expressions of church are just the latest fad," he added, "but the Lincoln experience proves otherwise. There are good signs of church growth there, and it was the first area of the UK to develop a county-wide ecumenical FEAST. The rest of us have much to learn from the work in Lincolnshire."

The conference is open to anyone interested in reaching those normally well off the Church's radar with new forms of church and those excited about a regional, inter-denominational and coordinated approach to mission and evangelism. Tickets are £25 which includes lunch and can be booked from the fresh expressions website.

In summary, the key details are as follows:

Date & time: 5th March 2010, 11am-4pm (refreshments and registration from 10.30am).

Venue: The Epic Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA.

Cost: £25 per person including lunch.

To book: Visit the Fresh Expressions website at:

www.freshexpressions.org.uk/training/lincoln

The Fresh Expressions team have announced the details of a major event to happen in March 2010. This will explore the future of the fresh expressions of church movement and in our view is the nearest successor to the highly successful National Church Planting Conferences held from 1987 through to 2005. We believe this should be an event of great significance and so we want to encourage you to make it a priority to be there. The following details are edited from the Fresh Expressions website:

ReSource – Creating Church in the Emerging Culture



We continue to be involved in the ReSource course for young adults with a heart for church planting and pioneering mission. This excellent training is accessible both as a year-

long course run over four weekends or alternatively as individual weekends. The most recent weekend was in London 8-10th January 2010 on Mission and Worship involving

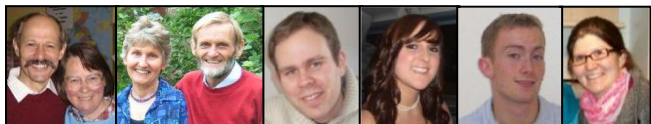
experiencing both Grace and Moot. Further weekends are in Southampton and Leeds. For more information or to book go to www.resourcission.com

Changes in the ACPI office team

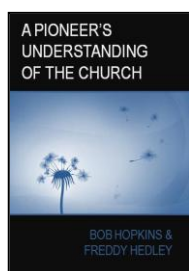
2009 has been a year of change in the ACPI team. The office team waved a sad farewell to Jude Stone in the summer as he started a new role in the NHS. He will be greatly missed after working in the ACPI team so effectively for many years. However, we were delighted to welcome in his place Phil Joyce who joined the team in late July 2009, working in the admin team and also taking on Jude's former role co-ordinating the Fresh Expressions Diocese and District Synod Tour. Amy's role has also changed to include most of Jude's ACPI roles such as accounts, website and overseeing the office.

In addition to their ACPI roles both Amy and Phil are involved in other mission and church ministries and their commitment to these has meant that as the year comes to a close both need to reduce their time in the office. So in January 2010 we also welcome Pip Martin into the admin team, who will be working part-time alongside Amy and Phil. Welcome Phil and Pip!

The ACPI team are: Bob & Mary Hopkins, Bruce & Colleen Mounsey, Freddy Hedley, Amy Radford, Phil Joyce and Pip Martin. (Brief biographies of all the ACPI team are on our website, so do log on and get to know the team!)



A Pioneer's Understanding of the Church



This fifth booklet in the ACPI Workbook series for resourcing church planting and fresh expressions of church is soon to be published and seeks to unpack one of the most crucial questions faced by pioneers and church planters today – what is church? Where are the dividing lines between mission initiatives and fully functional church, what is it that we are called to pioneer, and what are the different ways that it can work?

Bob Hopkins and Freddy Hedley tackle these questions by looking at some of the key biblical and historical sources to examine the foundational principles that Jesus and the early church set in place, as well as unpacking some of the main ecclesiological discussions that have emerged over the years. Put together these offer helpful insights as well as challenges for pioneers to reflect on their own vision and strategy as we all seek to extend the bounds of the Kingdom and the church.

The Importance of Support

As the vision for mission and fresh expressions of church continues to grow there is an increasing and essential emphasis being placed on the need for effective pioneer support. As is typical of such a diverse movement, there are as many solutions to this issue as there are needs for it, but there are common themes that have emerged and have proved helpful in many situations. The most common of these are found in coaching, mentoring, accountability groups such as huddles and action learning sets. There are a number of resources available to help lead these various forms. Three that we would particularly recommend would be: 1) the book *Coaching for Missional Leadership*, highlighted in our last circular and written by Bob Hopkins and Freddy Hedley; (available from our website www.acpi.org.uk); 2) some excellent downloadable 'huddle' resources, including leaders' and members' guides as well as accountability question leaflets produced by 3d Ministries (available from their website www.3dministries.com), and 3) a pilot leaflet with a range of questions to use when supporting a pioneer planter or team that we have worked on with Fresh Expressions and Church Army's TSC (available upon request).



Website & Latest ACPI Articles

The ACPI website continues to be updated periodically with new articles reviewing the latest stories and learning from around the church planting movement. Recent articles have included 'Evangelisation in New Housing Areas', in which team member Freddy Hedley examines a recent article from the Group for Evangelism (GfE); and 'Cafe Church – Evaluating a Range of Responses' in which Bob Hopkins analyses his experience of some six distinct approaches and asks "are they just using the café model or engaging with café culture?". Some clarity and classification are offered. Visit our website (www.acpi.org.uk) to read these and other articles and keep an eye out for new additions!

Team Story: God Working in a Small Community

God's faithfulness is something I continue to marvel at. In June my housemate became a Christian. She had been a vital part of the small group of friends who wanted to know more about Jesus, and we as a group began meeting regularly in September 2009. In the three years I had known her, she was quite happy without having faith and yet little by little God wooed her into a relationship with him through revelation of his love in community. **Amy Radford**